(c) the reasons for not giving the loan assistance to Rajasthan for the year 2006-07 as yet?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes, Sir. Some States have requested for pro-rata distribution of the non-disbursed amount of Fiscal Reforms Facility Fund.

(b) External loans do not flow to the States through the public account but through the Consolidated Fund of India. This is in line with the decision of Government of India while considering the recommendations of the Twelfth Finance Commission.

(c) Government of India has released Rs. 388.27 crore (Rs. 141.82 crore as grant and Rs. 246.45 crore as loan) as Additional Central Assistance for Externally Aided Projects to Rajasthan in 2006-07 as on 22.2.2007.

New bank branches in rural areas

†193.*SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new branches of banks opened in rural areas by Government during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to open more branches of banks in rural areas during the current year; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) As reported by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the Bank-wise details of the number of branches opened by the Public Sector Banks in the rural areas of the country during the years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) and (c) As per the Branch Authorisation Policy of RBI issued in September, 2005, banks have been given freedom to submit their branch Expansion Plans to RBI for approval on annual basis during the year.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Accordingly, banks submit proposals for opening branches at specific centres/places, keeping in view the availability of infrastructure, business potential and broad policy parameters. Banks are encouraged to open branches in under banked districts and rural centres.

Banks are also free to approach the RBI in respect of any urgent proposals regarding opening of branches, especially in rural areas/under banked districts any time during the year, in addition to the proposals submitted in their Annual Plan. The RBI generally approves the proposals received from the banks for opening of branches in rural areas and underbanked districts.

RBI does not have State-wise data on proposals for opening of branches in rural areas during the current year, as this would depend on the number of such proposals, which banks would be submitting to RBI as part of their Annual Branch Expansion Plan.

Statement

Bank-wise Details of the number of branches opended by the Public Sector Banks in the Rural Areas during the last three Year 2003-04, 2004-05 & 2005-06.

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Bank Name	Rural	Rural	Rural
1	2	3	4
State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur	-	1	1
State Bank of Hyderabad	-	1	2
State Bank of India	6	13	11
State Bank of Indore	-	-	-
State Bank of Mysore	-	2	1
State Bank of Patiala	-	1	1
State Bank of Saurashtra	-	-	-
State Bank of Travancore	-	-	1

1	2	3	4
State Bank Group Total	**6**	**18**	**17**
Allahabad Bank	1	-	2
Andhra Bank	-	3	4
Bank of Baroda	-	2	2
Bank of India	3	-	1
Bank of Maharashtra	-	-	1
Canara Bank	1	1	2
Central Bank of India	1	-	-
Corporation Bank	1	3	5
Dena Bank	-	-	-
Indian Bank	1	-	-
Indian Overseas Bank	2	1	-
Oriental Bank of Commerce	3	6	1
Punjab and Sind Bank	-	-	1
Punjab National Bank	2	6	3
Syndicate Bank	3	1	10
UCO Bank	1	1	2
Union Bank of India	1	2	1
United Bank of India	-	2	-
Vijaya Bank	3	-	-
Nationalised Bank Group Total	**23**	**28**	**35**
Grand Total:	**29**	**46**	**52**

Concession on taxes to promoters of SEZs

194. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there will be huge loss to exchequer due to concessions on duties and taxes to promoters of SEZs;